

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

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R 192030Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2509

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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ARA/CAR FOR PALAZZOLO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NA

SUBJECT: NA GOVERNMENT CRISIS

REF: CURACAO 668

1. ON DEC 17, GNA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HEADED BY PM EVERTSZ STRIPPED PORTFOLIOS AND POWER FROM THE 3 MEP MINISTERS (VOS OF JUSTICE, DE KORT OF FINANCE, AND CROES OF EDUCATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.) THE THREE REMAIN IN CABINET WITHOUT PORTFOLIO UNTIL REMOVED BY STATEN. PRESIDENT OF STATEN F. FIGAROA (MEP) HAS DECLINED NVP-U'S AND FOL'S REQUEST TO CALL MEETING OF STATEN, PROPOUNDING MEP VIEW THAT NEW ELECTIONS ARE WARRANTED BY EVERTSZ'S QTE BREACH OF FAITH UNQTE. IF FIGAROA CONTINUES TO BALK, NA GOVERNOR LEITO HAS AUTHORITY TO CALL STATEN INTO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, WHICH HE REPORTEDLY IS WILLING TO DO IF NECESSARY.

2. VOTE TO OUST 3 MEP MINISTERS REQUIRES 12 OF 22 STATEN VOTES; WITHOUT MEP SUPPORT, COALITION HAS ONLY 10 SURE
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VOTES. EVERTSZ MUST, IN EFFECT, RECRUIT NEW COALITION PARTNER

BEFORE HE CAN EJECT MEP. MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE REMAINS
ARUBA'S PATRIOTIC PARTY (PPA) WHICH DENIES IT HAS BEEN APPROACHED
BUT APPEARS VERY WILLING. (SEE COMMENT.)

3. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MEP BOSS BETICO CROES, ON DEC 17,
TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IF ARUBA DOES NOT RECEIVE COOPERATION
FROM THE OTHER NA ISLANDS AND HOLLAND IN REALIZING HER
QTE STATUS APARTE UNQTE GOALS, ARUBA WILL QTE PROCLAIM HER
INDEPENDENCE UNILATERALLY UNQTE. HE MENTIONED NO DATE,
BUT SIGNIFICANTLY, NEITHER CROES NOR OTHER MEP LEADERS HAVE
DENIED PERSISTANT RUMORS APPEARING IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE
TO THE EFFECT THAT MARCH 18, 1977 IS QTE THE DAY UNQTE.

4 COMMENT. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE PRESENT CRISIS IS MORE
APPARENT THAN REAL. EVERTSZ ENJOYS HIS MINISTER PRESIDENT
ROLE, WE FEEL, AND WOULD NOT HAVE PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS AT
THIS TIME IF HE HAD FELT THAT HIS OWN POSITION WAS IN JEOPARDY.
ACCORDING TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE (AND WE BELIEVE RELIABLE)
FRENTE OBRERO DI LIBERATION (FOL) SOURCE, ARUBA'S PPA WITH
3 SEATS WILL INDEED JOIN THE GOVERNING COALITION. THIS WILL
SATISFY GOVERNOR LEITO'S STATED PREFERENCE FOR A COALITION
IN WHICH ALL THE ISLANDS ARE REPRESENTED.

5. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF MEP, EVERTSZ NVP-U PARTY'S POSITION
AS THE LARGEST IN A NEW COALITION IS STRENGTHENED.
EVERTSZ, HIMSELF FREED FROM MEP BAYING FROM WITHIN THE
GOVERNMENT ABOUT QTE STATUS APARTE UNQTE, WILL FEEL BETTER
ABLE TO RESIST DUTCH PRESSURE FOR NA INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE
NEAR TERM.

6. WE DOUBT THAT CROES WILL GET VERY FAR WITH HIS UNILATERAL
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THREAT, IF THE DUTCH STICK TO
THEIR POLICY OF DISCUSSING INDEPENDENCE ONLY WITH THE GNA.
HANSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, CABINET, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CURACA00675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0275
From: CURACAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751225/aaaaavne.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CURACAO 668
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NA GOVERNMENT CRISIS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006